

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-20, 23-27 and 29-35 are currently pending in the application. Herein the applicant amends independent claims 1 and 23.

A. RESPONSE TO REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office action the Examiner rejects claims 1, 4-12, 34 and 35 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over a lost count and US patent 4,528,252 ("Yamazaki".) In response the applicant has amended the independent claims to include the limitation that the membrane is constructed to be highly restrictive to the flow of the electrolyte solution. Yamazaki fails to teach or suggest any such limitation, and is constructed in an arrangement that requires fluid communication between chambers. See Figs. 1 and 2 of Yamazaki. Accordingly, the combination of the lost count and Yamazaki cannot render the cited claims obvious.

In the Office action the Examiner rejects claims 3 and 15-19 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over a lost count and US patent 4,528,252 ("Yamazaki") further in view of US patent 5,512,787 (Dederick.) In response the applicant has amended the independent claims to include the limitation that the membrane is constructed to be highly restrictive to the flow of the electrolyte solution. Yamazaki fails to teach or suggest any such limitation, and is constructed in an arrangement that requires fluid communication between chambers. See Figs. 1 and 2 of Yamazaki. Accordingly, the combination cannot render the cited claims obvious.

In the Office action the Examiner rejects claims 13, 14, 23, 26, 27, 29 and 30 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over a lost count and US patent 4,528,252 ("Yamazaki") further in view of US patent 3,870,616 (Dempsey.) In response the

applicant has amended the independent claims to include the limitation that the membrane is constructed to be highly restrictive to the flow of the electrolyte solution. Yamazaki fails to teach or suggest any such limitation, and is constructed in an arrangement that requires fluid communication between chambers. See Figs. 1 and 2 of Yamazaki. Accordingly, the combination cannot render the cited claims obvious.

In the Office action the Examiner rejects claim 20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over a lost count and US patent 4,528,252 ("Yamazaki") further in view of US patent 4,052,228 (Russell.) In response the applicant has amended the independent claims to include the limitation that the membrane is constructed to be highly restrictive to the flow of the electrolyte solution. Yamazaki fails to teach or suggest any such limitation, and is constructed in an arrangement that requires fluid communication between chambers. See Figs. 1 and 2 of Yamazaki. Accordingly, the combination cannot render the cited claims obvious.

In the Office action the Examiner rejects claims 24 and 25 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over a lost count and US patent 4,528,252 ("Yamazaki") further in view of US patent 5,512,787 (Dederick.) In response the applicant has amended the independent claims to include the limitation that the membrane is constructed to be highly restrictive to the flow of the electrolyte solution. Yamazaki fails to teach or suggest any such limitation, and is constructed in an arrangement that requires fluid communication between chambers. See Figs. 1 and 2 of Yamazaki. Accordingly, the combination cannot render the cited claims obvious.

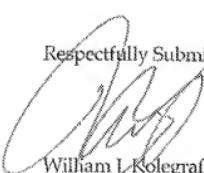
In the Office action the Examiner rejects claims 31 and 32 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over a lost count and US patent 4,528,252 ("Yamazaki") further in view of US patent 4,352,722 (Ohkawa.) In response the applicant has amended the

independent claims to include the limitation that the membrane is constructed to be highly restrictive to the flow of the electrolyte solution. Yamazaki fails to teach or suggest any such limitation, and is constructed in an arrangement that requires fluid communication between chambers. See Figs. 1 and 2 of Yamazaki. Accordingly, the combination cannot render the cited claims obvious.

B. CONCLUSION

The applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in a condition for allowance. If the Examiner would find it helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully Submitted,



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